

# U2 Plane Crashes on Cuba Flight

STATINTL

KEY WEST Fla. (UPI)—A high-flying U2 reconnaissance plane crashed in the Gulf of Mexico Wednesday during an apparent surveillance mission over Communist Cuba.

The Strategic Air Command (SAC) said there was no evidence of hostile action and theorized the odd-looking jet plane experienced mechanical trouble.

Military sources in Washington, however, did not discount entirely the possibility of a Cuban attack on the U2, the intelligence craft that discovered the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba last year and has kept the island under surveillance since.

An air and sea search was launched immediately after the plane disappeared from land-based radar scopes at 10:32 a.m. EST Wednesday. Eight minutes later, a pilot reported an oil slick in the Gulf about 40 miles northwest of Key West.

There was no immediate word on the fate of the pilot, identified as Capt. Joe E. Hyde Jr., 33, of LaGrange with "no comment." No one answered the telephone at the home of Hyde's wife, Marianne, in Leeland, Miss.

SAC headquarters in Omaha, Neb., announced the crash. Sources said the pilot did not radio any indication of trouble, but the lack of such a report was inconclusive since the radio cuts off when the engine of the U2 fails.

It was the ~~second~~ known crash of a U2 "spy" plane during a Cuban overflight. Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr., 31, of Greenville, S.C., was ~~killed~~ when a U2 went down ~~off~~ Cuba on Oct. 27, 1962, during ~~its~~ height of the Cuban ~~crisis~~.

It was a letter in a sleek black car, described by Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), as the most important espionage break through of the 20th century. The first spotted Soviet ship in Cuba in October, 1962.

The ship was withdrawn after a "shipcheck" shown down by the United States and Pan Am to the have